

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the section heading beginning at page 6, line 11.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~Accordingly, it is an object of the~~ The present invention to produce ~~overcomes the problems and shortcomings of the prior art by providing an~~ as-grown single crystal of alkaline earth metal fluoride having a straight barrel part diameter of not less than 17 cm and having excellent visible light transmittance produced by a single crystal pulling method. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~The present inventors have earnestly studied to solve the above problems.~~ ~~As a result, they first succeeded in producing a large-sized as-grown single crystal of alkaline earth metal fluoride, specifically calcium fluoride, barium fluorine or the like, having excellent visible light transmittance by a single crystal pulling method, and accomplished the present invention.~~ --

Please delete the section heading beginning at page 26, line 14.